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Subject: Clean-up and Abatement Order for the Rubicon Trail

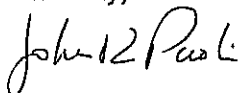
I strongly recommend the Clean up and Abatement Order for the Rubicon Trail. While the Rubicon Trail is a county road, it has become severely impacted by unmanaged extreme off road vehicles. This severe impact has also affected adjacent National Forest lands as well.

The winter season closure of the Rubicon Trail is the first step that could be implemented immediately. The abuse of winter travel by 4x4 vehicles on the Rubicon Trail is well documented. Since over the snow travel on nearby USFS dirt roads is not allowed, this same measure will help to eliminate a major cause of the ongoing resource damage. For example, the installation of gates is a simple and proven form of enforcement with little cost to El Dorado County.

We need to restore the Trail to a narrow historic street legal 4x4 route, and take steps to fix the damage already inflicted. Also, require a cleanup of all oil spills and carry out of all human waste. In the future, install, maintain, and monitor erosion control measures to ensure water quality. I strongly support the elimination of "extreme" 4X4 vehicles. These vehicles are causing most of the damage. Restrict trail use to street legal vehicles only.

The implementation of use permits, fees, and quotas would help protect the Trail. The Rubicon Trail passes through high alpine forests identical to those in adjacent Desolation Wilderness. The Forest Service limits use in Desolation Wilderness through a quota system and a permit fee. The county should do the same for the Rubicon Trail? El Dorado county asserts it is already planning to do much of what is required in the draft Clean up and Abatement Order.

Sincerely,



John De Paoli